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OCCURRENCE OF MURDANNIA SPIRATA IN FLORIDA¹

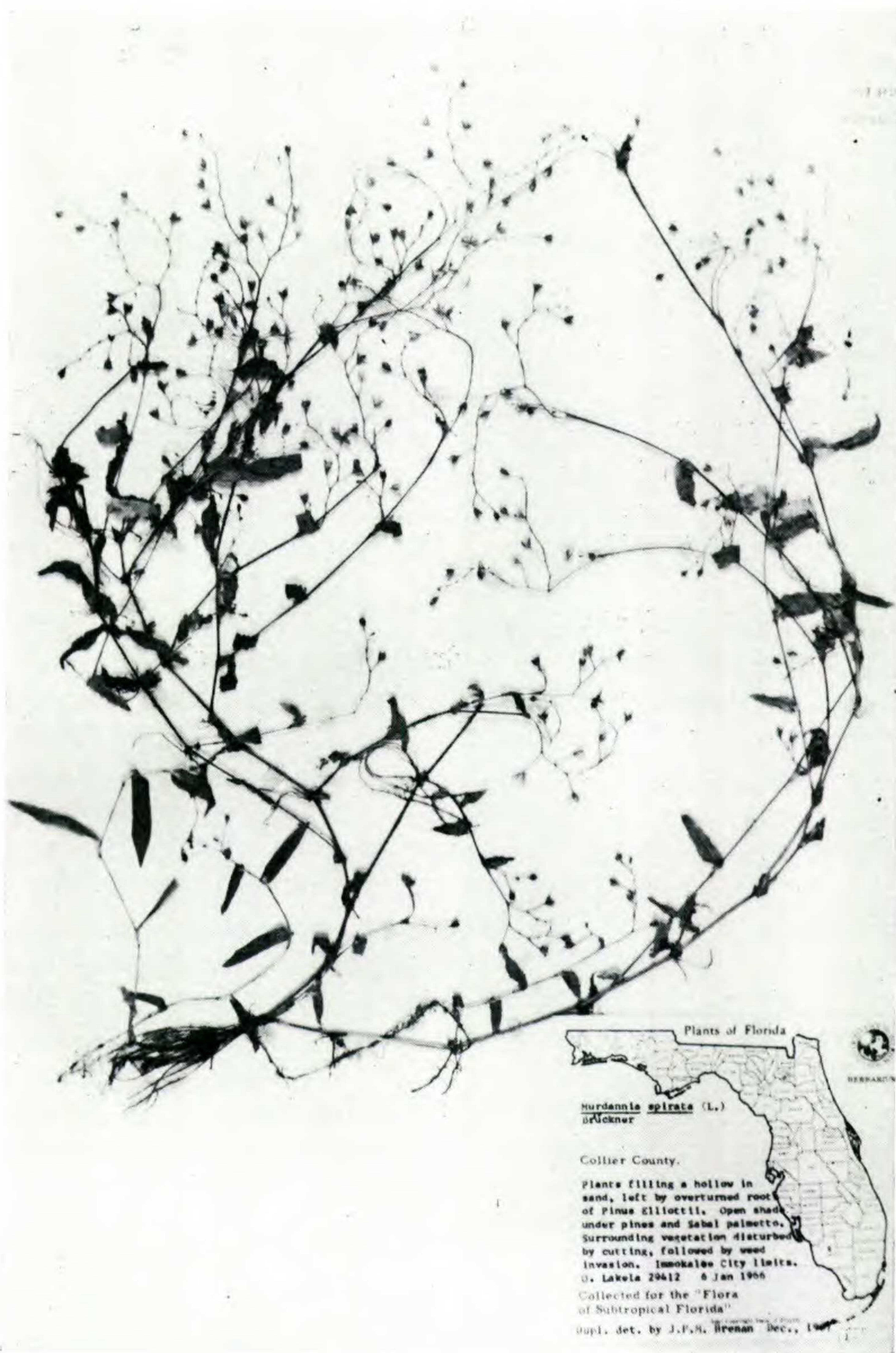
The recording of a description of this species in American botanical works is deemed important because of its extended distribution from the Asiatic tropics of the Eastern Hemisphere to the subtropics of the Western Hemisphere. According to Dr. J. P. M. Brenan who determined the specimen, the discovery is the first one out of its native region.²

Murdannia spirata (L.) Bruckner. (*Aneilema spiratum* R. Br.) Plant annual, to 3 dm long; stems slender, soft, ascending, rooting at nodes, diffusely branching in age, glabrous, only the internodal groove viscid-villous; leaves thin, acute, 2-4 cm long, 4-10 mm wide, lanceolate, white-margined; the cordate-rounded clasping base sparsely ciliate or glabrate; inflorescence terminal or axillary, few-flowered, in axils of the uppermost leaves; peduncle elongate usually forked into 2, flexuous, divergent, paniculate branches; pedicels 5-9 mm long, distant, subtended by small, acute, clasping, floral bracts; living flowers in full anthesis 4-6 mm long; sepals concave greenish, diffused with pink; petals 4.5-5.5 mm long, pinkish-lavender; limb suborbicular veined in deeper shades, minutely cremate-denticulate at apex, clearly showing 3 vascular traces forking and reforking into finer traces radiating toward the

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Plate 1403.



Murdannia spirata

margin; stamens opposite the sepals; anthers pastel blue, pollen white; individual grains colorless oval-oblique in face view; filaments tapering to anther connectives from thicker barbate base; hairs beaded; staminodes white, 3-lobulate; style 3 mm long, stigma capitate; capsule ovoid with tardily deciduous style; valves lustrous, chartaceous, apex with persistent style base; seeds angled, averaging 0.8-0.9 in length, typically 4, uniseriate in each locule, contiguous surfaces truncate, the first and the last rounded at free ends; testa pale gray, sparsely verrucose.

Murdannia spirata differs from *M. nudiflora* in softer texture of the plant as a whole; leaf-shape; finer pubescence; diffuse, paniculate inflorescence; blue anthers; color of the petals; more numerous, smaller seeds.

The known distribution in Florida is restricted to northern Collier County, in the vicinity of Immokalee. A population of this plant was first noted on the margin of a seasonally wet prairie glade, 6 miles north of Immokalee. The lush green plants dispersed in mucky soil among tufts of *Eleocharis* and *Hydrocotyle* presented a different appearance from *Murdannia nudiflora* (Coll. Lakela 29185, Oct. 5, 1965, in flower and fruit).

The plants were encountered in another site at Immokalee City limits. The colony was centered in a hollow of sand, made by upturned roots of a fallen pine. Over the area on a road off the main street, *Pinus Elliottii* and *Sabal palmetto*, remnants of pine flatwoods, cast an open shade. The plants filled the hollow completely and were largely post-mature but still in excellent fruit. Photo. (Coll. Lakela 29412, Jan. 6, 1966.)

These sites were conveniently located for follow-up study and collecting. The period of anthesis is approximately from September-December. Flowers remain open for from two to three hours. Duplicates of dried specimens with one living plant were mailed to Kew, England.

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EMENDATIONS IN UNITED STATES PHYSALIS

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An investigation of *Physalis* in Mexico, Central America and the West Indies, undertaken during the past four years, including a trip in August, 1965 to study types and other historically significant specimens in European herbaria, has resulted in the necessity of reinterpreting some of the taxa of this genus in the U.S. In addition, further observation indicates the desirability of a change in status for another taxon.

Physalis hederifolia Gray, var. ***puberula*** Gray was included in var. *hederifolia* in the earlier treatment (Waterfall, 1958). In studying Mexican material it seemed that collections with vestiture of short, antrorse hairs only, or with varying amounts of glandular-capitate trichomes, might well be referred to var. *puberula*, those with vestiture including long, jointed hairs to var. *hederifolia* (Waterfall, 1967). The two may be intermixed in much of their range, but var. *puberula* is more western.

Examples of var. *puberula* include: CALIFORNIA: SAN DIEGO CO.: "Cleveland collection" 6993, between Walkers and Jacumba, June 23, 1885 (SD); Daniel Cleveland 6931, July 3, 1884 (SD); ARIZONA: COCHISE CO.: Wyatt W. Jones *sin num*, Don Luis, Aug. 18, 1956 (SD); YAVAPAI CO.: Charles W. Harbison 41.220, Kirkland Junction, May 29, 1941 (SD).

Physalis philadelphica Lamarck, var. ***immaculata*** Waterfall, *Rhodora* 69: 215. 1967. This small-flowered variety